



State Representative Richard F. Ferrari

Dear Friends,

The 2006 legislative session was a beneficial one for the 62nd District.

Annual state grant totals (which include state funding for town road maintenance and aid to local schools) for Barkhamsted, East Granby, Granby and New Hartford are up from last year.

We also authorized supplemental special education grants for local school districts that will be disbursed in 2007. The grants are in addition to each town's annual Education Cost Sharing grant and current special education grants and, while not large, are still welcome.

In addition, an act I cosponsored consolidated the probate courts of Suffield and East Granby, creating a new probate district that will enable the court to make improvements necessary for a more streamlined operation.

State grants benefiting the 62nd District also were approved, including:

- \$500,000 to build a two-story, 10,000 square foot addition to the New Hartford Public Library. The project will create new learning space, allow various library functions to relocate, and enable existing programs to expand.
- \$209,553 for repairs to Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine in East Granby. Old New-Gate Prison attracts visitors from the Greater Hartford area and tourists from throughout Connecticut and New England who patronize local hotels, motels, restaurants and other businesses. The grant will help ensure the preservation of this unique historic site for years to come.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at the Connecticut General Assembly in Hartford.

Sincerely,



Rep. Ferrari, Rep. Ruth C. Fahrbach, R-61st District, and Old New-Gate Prison Museum Director Karin Peterson, left, inspect the wall of a building at the historic site that will undergo repairs funded by a \$209,553 state grant approved this year.



State Representative

RICHARD F. FERRARI

Proudly Serving the 62nd District

Barkhamsted • East Granby • Granby • New Hartford

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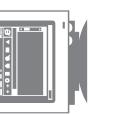
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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
RICHARD F. FERRARI
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Representative Ferrari debates a bill on the floor of the House during the 2006 legislative session.

Protecting Your Interests

During the 2006 session, as always, I worked on behalf of the 62nd District's families, children, seniors and taxpayers. I supported measures to ease traffic congestion, spur economic growth, create jobs, preserve the environment and protect consumers.

Creating More Jobs

Connecticut still lags behind most other states in economic growth and job creation. To help rectify that situation, I cosponsored a law that exempts machinery and equipment from the property tax to help our struggling manufacturers, and provides tax credits to encourage film production, which will help create thousands of new jobs in our state.

Fostering Technological Innovation

I supported legislation to promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices designed and manufactured at the molecular level.

Nurturing Microbusinesses and New Companies

Under an act I cosponsored, the state will provide matching financial assistance for microbusinesses that receive funding through two federal programs, and venture capital for newly-established or expanding businesses that are in the early stages of developing new products and processes.

Office of the Business Advocate

An Office of the Business Advocate was established under a law I cosponsored. The office will contact micro and small businesses that could benefit from business assistance programs, provide information about the programs, and help businesses access them.

Encouraging Math and Science Proficiency

I cosponsored legislation that creates three pilot programs for certain teenage students to help them attain proficiency in mathematics and science and to prepare them for future employment with technology-based companies in Connecticut.

Recruiting the Best and the Brightest

I cosponsored an act that establishes a program to recruit eminent faculty and their research staff to the University of Connecticut and which creates grant programs to repay student loans for engineers and people who hold specific doctoral degrees.

Curbing Underage Drinking

To reduce underage drinking and help prevent serious or fatal accidents, I cosponsored a law that makes it illegal for parents or other adults to host parties where the consumption of alcoholic beverages by teenagers is tolerated. The act includes a religious exception.

Fighting Drunk Driving

To help ensure convictions of drunk drivers involved in serious or fatal accidents, I voted for a law that requires blood or breath samples to be taken from surviving drivers if police have good reason to believe they were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Preventing Harassment of Crime Victims

To protect crime victims from being victimized twice by the same perpetrator, I voted for a law to require convicted criminals to file certificates stating that lawsuits they bring against their victims have merit and are not being done maliciously or to harass their victims.

Sale of Fake Motor Vehicle Air Bags

I supported an act that prohibits the sale of devices that are used to replace motor vehicle air bags but do not conform to federal air bag safety standards.

Breast Cancer Screening

I supported a law to require health insurers to provide added coverage for breast cancer screening if a woman is believed to be at increased risk for breast cancer because of family history, her prior breast cancer history or other indications determined by her physician.

Testing for Children with Cancer

I voted for an act requiring health insurers and the HUSKY Plan to cover testing ordered by physicians for children with cancer to assess the extent to which chemotherapy or radiation treatment has caused cognitive or developmental problems.



Representative Ferrari and state Senator Joan Hartley, D-Waterbury, discuss legislation pending before the state House of Representatives of importance to both legislators' districts.



Representative Ferrari with Michael Reagan, of Danbury. Reagan, a University of Connecticut senior, was Representative Ferrari's intern during the 2006 legislative session.

Supporting National Guard Members

I voted for a law that gives National Guard members ordered into active state service (such as riot control and disaster response) the more extensive civil and employment protections enjoyed by federal armed service members.

Helping Disabled Veterans

Veterans' disability payments will be excluded in the calculation of income to determine eligibility for income-based property tax exemptions under a law I cosponsored.

Honoring Our War Dead

Under a new law I supported, both the state and national flags will be flown at half-staff (whenever the governor orders the state flag to be flown at half-staff) for the same amount of time to honor members of the armed services who die in the line of duty.

Encroachment on Open Space Land

To help preserve undeveloped acreage in Connecticut, I voted for an act that prohibits anyone from encroaching on open space land owned by the state or a nonprofit land conservation organization without permission or legal authorization.

Clean Cars Program

I supported legislation that establishes a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles, starting with 2009 models. The program will enable potential buyers to determine which cars are environmentally-friendly and which ones are less so.

State Budget

The 2006 - 07 budget increases the property tax credit that property owners can take to reduce their state income tax liability from \$350 for the 2005 tax year to \$500 for the 2006 tax year, repeals the 15 percent corporate income tax surcharge, and makes prudent use of the state surplus. I supported the budget because it is fiscally responsible and will help stimulate economic growth and job creation in Connecticut.